
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MEETING MINUTES

11/30/09

The Board of Selectmen met in the Town Hall, Joseph F. Bilotta Meeting Room as scheduled with Thomas Alonzo, Paula Bertram, Steven M. deBettencourt, Thomas Mason, Dave Matthews, members of the Finance Committee, Brian Laffond, Martha MacDonald, Barbara Reynolds, Marilyn Stokes, Lars Widstrand, John Male and Mark Erickson and Town Manager Kerry Speidel present. Also present was Karen Brochu, Town Accountant and David Reef, School Committee Chair. Meeting opened at 7:07 P.M.

CURRENT BUSINESS

1. STM Motion Sheet – Review Articles – Kerry reviewed budget Article #4 (FY10 budget). Deficit has been reduced to \$294,771.48 as a result of new growth. Explained the one time expense and justification of using the Stabilization Fund, which comprised of the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund deficit and the Court Judgement. Solid Waste Enterprise Fund is comprised of two components, the waste and recycling which was bid as one. Seemed reasonable to cut the monthly charge of the trucks, 50/50 and that amount should be towards recycling. In 2009 appropriated \$85,000 and should have been \$165,000. Bags @ \$30,000 were purchased in FY09 and were actually to be used in FY10, which results in a total deficit for 2009 of \$142,000. Seemed to be consensus among the boards for funding this deficit and general agreement and that we would apportion the solid waste deficit 60/40, the school being 60%.

Reviewed the “Additional Cuts Needed to Balance Budget including draw from Stabilization Fund” sheet and information from the meetings that she had with the two members of the Finance Committee, the Board of Selectmen and School Committee. Spoke with the various employee groups including the PEC, who decided to take a vote against any negotiations on shifting any health insurance premiums. This action took the option of employee benefits as a method to balance the budget off the table which left her with lay-offs and furloughs. If town meeting approves use of Stabilization Fund for the deficit, then the choice would be to furlough employees. All the Administrative and Land Use departments would furlough for 5 days, and the DPW furlough for 5 days (two separate groups over a two week time period). Met with the various town employee groups and department heads today to go over the options and how to implement, which has not yet been established. Suggested closing for a week and close the buildings completely, possibly April vacation. For DPW would not close, but would break them into two groups, one furlough one week and the others the second week.

The use of the Stabilization Fund went from \$142,661 to \$91,661 as the School Superintendant was able to identify up to \$132,000 worth of cuts without effecting any positions. Starting with the \$291,321 deficit and assume \$30,161 (bags) and the court judgement (\$27,500)) are justified the schools portion of \$140,197.00 and town \$93,465, which would impact the Town side with employee furloughs. If town meeting would not approve using Stabilization in any form we would be forced to the one week furloughs as well as layoffs of the town side. Initial savings if you include the layoff scenario is low due to the costs for unemployment. Will be asking the PEC again if they would consider negotiations for FY11.

All present realized that this group needs to be able to go to town meeting with a consensus.

Court costs, \$27,500, bags \$30,161 and \$34,000 of the \$85,000 FY10 deficit, which is a portion of the recycling deficit (a one time adjustment to get back on track) to get to the \$100,000. Noted that the Library's impact is reduced due to the reduction in library supplies and not filing a position due to retirement in FY10. The intent is to apply to the state for a one year waiver as we will be below our funding requirement for the library.

Kerry noted that the \$350,000 that we received from the state for the Tri-town development, that project is moving and we have confirmed that this money is unrestricted and is the same type of money as the 1.3 million in the Stabilization Fund, if you put those two stabilization funds together we are well above the 5% recommended policy that the town has established, we're still within 6%.

Consensus of those present is \$112,500 which would be the total deficit for the Recycling Enterprise Fund, the cost of the bags and the court judgement. School will cut \$132,000 and would recommend the balance go back into the Reserve Fund.

Request to draw from the Stabilization Fund of \$112,500, school to be reduced by the \$132,000 and the town by \$57,662. and transfer to the Reserve Fund \$37,460

Tom M., motion to accept the proposal submitted by Kerry, Paula seconded, voted unanimously.

Barbara Reynolds move to take the \$112,500 out of the Zoning Incentive Stabilization fund, Lars, seconded, defeated.

Mark motion to take the \$112,500 out of the regular Stabilization Fund, Lars second, voted unanimously.

Discussion on Article 8 to impose local meals excise tax. Per Tom M., this can raise \$30,000 for the town this year and \$60,000 next year.

Lars motioned to reopen Fincom discussion, Mark seconded voted unanimously to reopen.

Tom M., move to approve Article 8, Paula seconded. Dave would consider and Lars noted that this can be a one time vote and can change next year, called for vote; Tom M., aye, Steve, Tom, Dave and Paula no.

Barbara, motion to approve Article 8, Lars seconded, called for vote; Barbara, John, Lars and Brian aye, Mark, Martha and Marilyn no.

Dave motion to disapprove Article #3, Tom M., seconded, voted unanimous to disapprove.

Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to approve Article #5, #9, #10, #11, #12, #13 hold on #6 and #15.

Tom A., would like a motion to pass over Article 7 as we are still waiting for an answer as to whether we can get back into the Police Career Incentive Program should we vote it out. Dave motion to pass over, Steve seconded voted unanimously to pass over.

Being no further business board voted unanimously to adjourn Regular Session at 9:00 P.M. Meeting time changed to 6:30 PM tomorrow.

Respectfully submitted, Laura Williams, Chief Administrative Assistant, Board of Selectmen